

GAS CASE TAKEN FROM JUDGE GIBBONS —CHICAGO MAY GET BACK TEN MILLIONS

John Gibbons, superior court judge, denies from the bedside of his sick sister in Philadelphia that he consented to the city's legislation against the gas company being taken from his court. He has sent a letter to circuit court judges defying them to take it away from him and saying he would readily assent to the reassignment if he thought the gas consumers would be benefited by the change.

Many months ago Atty Donald Richberg, representing the city, asked Judge Gibbons to change the case from the superior to the circuit court, saying that it was a chancery matter, not one of law. Gibbons refused to do this. He sent the case to a master in chancery, where the company's books were brought out and partly opened. Upon the master's report he denied the city the right of impounding \$10,000,000 overcharges of the company and the whole opening of the company's book that the real manufacturing cost of the price of gas could be obtained for a fair rate making.

Then Richberg asked the circuit court judge to take the case. He called Judge Gibbons' conduct "a scandal in the administration of justice." So "in the interests of justice" he asked the case to be transferred. It was.

For the first time in the history of the court a case has been taken away from a judge who has announced his desire to handle it.

Gibbons is not expected back for several days and this morning Richberg appears before Judge Frederick Smith to ask to have Judge Gibbons' order, which sent the suit to a master in chancery, vacated. If this is done the ruling based on the master's report will be void and the city can start all over again in its attempt to impound the \$10,000,000 which Richberg claims for the people of Chicago

as a rebate on their inflated gas bills for the past five years. Richberg also wants the company's books opened. He is so sure of obtaining this privilege from the court he has asked the city to include in the budget an amount to be expended in an investigation of the books and a corps of engineers to analyze the figures brought in by the accountants.

The gas committee of the council is satisfied the way things are going. They told Richberg to go ahead and decided to call in this morning officials of the company to explain a portion of their letter to the council in which the company cried for quits. It offered to start making the rates all over if the city would only leave them and their \$10,000,000 alone.

—o—o— AIRY CLAD DANCERS KEEP FORD PARTY FROM PARTY

Copenhagen, Jan. 6. — Because some airily clad "classic" dancers were on the program, Ford peace party will not attend reception arranged by local society of Esperantists, it was announced today.

Had the matter been put to a vote, the invitation probably would have been accepted by an overwhelming majority. But the Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones and other members of the steering committee decided classic dances not strictly symbolical of the movement for peace.

Danish delegation to The Hague peace conference is nearly complete. Sven Lange, novelist; Olaf Forchhammer, president of Copenhagen Peace society, and Commodore Blume, Arctic explorer, are the most prominent personages.

Several American delegates, now thoroughly saturated with homesickness, are preparing to leave the Ford party and sail direct from Copenhagen for home.